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A QUESTION OF LITERARY CONSCIENCE.

There are few chapters of literary criticism that surpass, in display of subtle insight and essential justice of conclusion, the well-known essay of Charles Lamb upon the artificial comedy of the Restoration. This essay has always been a stumbling-block to the Philistine, and will always appear paradoxical to the reader whose intellectual perceptions do not nicely balance his moral prepossessions. Macaulay, as we know, found it both a paradox and a stumbling-block, and assailed it with the weaver's beam that he wielded with such redoubtable energy. But in spite of the attack of Macaulay, and of other persons defective in their literary sympathies, the ideas advanced by Lamb in this essay have held their own, and criticism has accepted their fundamental validity. It will be remembered that Lamb's argument runs, in substance, to the effect that the writers whom he defends created a conventional world of their own, in which the rules that ordinarily govern, and properly should govern, human conduct, have no more application than the rules of ordinary probability to the incidents of a Grim *Mährchen* or an Arabian tale. Lamb declared himself "glad for a season to take an airing beyond the diocese of the strict conscience," and now and then "for a dream-while or so, to imagine a world with no meddling restrictions." The world of Congreve and Wycherley "is altogether a speculative scene of things, which has no reference whatever to the world that is. . . . The whole is a passing pageant, where we should sit as unconcerned at the issues, for life or death, as at a battle of the frogs and mice." His complaint is that people no longer take delight in the pageant, because they have grown too strenuous in their literal-minded interpretation of the show. "Like Don Quixote, we take part against the puppets, and quite as impertinently." We are too self-conscious to give ourselves up to mere distraction, and go to the theatre not "to escape from the pressure of reality so much as to confirm our experience of it; to make assurance double, and take a bond of fate."

The fashion of the Restoration comedy is

one that has now passed away from popular interest, but another fashion has taken its place, concerning which Lamb's argument is equally to the point. This is the fashion of romantic fiction, toward which our strenuous moralists are apt to assume a deprecatory attitude, upon much the same grounds that served as a basis for the condemnation of the earlier fashion. Romantic fiction is essentially unreal, we are told; it does not reflect the conditions of actual life, it encourages us to dream instead of setting us face to face with the problems of human existence, it dissipates our energies instead of enlisting them in behalf of worthy social and intellectual causes. The charge is doubtless true, but is there no place for dreams in the economy of the spiritual life? Are we to reject the ministry of every form of literature that takes us away from our surroundings, or is not closely related to our immediate pursuits and interests? Entertainment may not be the highest mission of literature, but it is surely a legitimate object for a writer to set before himself, and those writers who offer entertainment, in whatever fashion the hour may approve, are not undeserving of the public and will not find their efforts unrewarded. To say that romantic fiction moves in an unreal world of its own making should not be held a matter for reproach; it should rather be recognized as the necessary condition of this form of art, and should make us grateful for the refuge which it offers to the mind oppressed by the burden, at times so intolerable, of the actual world. The art of fiction depends upon conventions quite as fully as does the dramatic art. The action must be compressed far beyond the limits of probability, and worked out with small regard for the many disturbing influences by which it would certainly be complicated in real life. The villain must be foiled, the hero must triumph, and the lovers must be united, even if there are only a score of pages in which to accomplish all these things. Whatever the length of the story, these are its fundamental requirements; and to such ends all the means employed by the writer must be bent. Each separate scene, moreover, must be heightened in effect far beyond anything that is likely to occur in everyday life; two people seated side by side at a dinner-table must make their conversation more brilliant than any that was ever actually heard upon such an occasion; the members of every group of persons brought into contact for the purposes of the narrative must say and do just the right things at the

right moments, instead of floundering about in act and speech as they doubtless would in the haphazard actual world. In that world, as the poet reminds us, we get "never the time and the place and the loved one all together"; but in the world which the romantic imagination creates we have a right to expect this conjunction, and a reason for justifiable disappointment if it is missed.

The romance of pure adventure appeals to some of our healthiest instincts. Both as boys and as men, we like to follow the fortunes of pirates, to read about shipwrecks and all other sorts of forlorn hopes, and to applaud the deeds of heroes who slay their enemies right and left, and escape from the most desperate dangers by feats of improbable prowess and display of indomitable if not superhuman valor. The gentlest spirits as well as the most fiery delight in these things, and delight in them precisely because they are so far removed from ordinary human experience. They are the happenings of a world which, at least when we have outgrown boyhood, we have no desire to make our own, a world which could not be our own if we wished it, a world which we frankly recognize as imagined for our diversion. We should ill requite those who purvey for us all this innocent entertainment were we to arraign them before the bar of science, to make stern inquiry into the probability of their imaginings, and to pronounce upon the conduct of their characters such severe judgments as would doubtless await such conduct in the courts of justice of our prosaic world.

Nevertheless, although we are fully persuaded of the right of romantic fiction to exist and of its heroes to perform acts which would not bear the test of a prosaic and conventional morality, we are not without certain searchings of soul when we contemplate the enormous vogue enjoyed by this species of literature at the present day. Of that vogue there can be no question. It would be difficult to point to any earlier period in which popular fiction was so largely made up of tales of adventure, tales whose interest centres upon exploits rather than principles, upon the triumph of the individual will rather than of the abstract ideal. There is an appalling amount of bloodshed in our popular romance, and an almost unexampled degree of recklessness in the choice of means for the desired end. One need not be a professional moralist to correlate this illustration of popular taste with the wave of brutality which seems to be sweeping over our civiliza-

tion, and which threatens to submerge the moral territory that has been reclaimed at so great a cost of individual and collective effort. For some reason or other, the finer instincts of civilization seem of late years to have become dulled, and both individuals and nations are suffered without effective protest to commit acts which should arouse the fiercest indignation for their contravention of all the principles by which nations achieve true greatness and individuals bequeath to their descendants a heritage of honorable fame. We should hardly include our popular literature among the active causes of this degenerative process, but it may not be unfair to regard it as symptomatic. We may read with zest the popular literature which glories in brute force, and we may get no harm from it as individuals; but we must "view with alarm," as the political platforms say, the ever-increasing hold which this species of literature is gaining upon the popular mind. If such literature does not directly shape the actions of men, it certainly does to some extent reflect their ideals, and its present prominence is such as to confront the literary conscience with a serious question. Should we, because they afford us such admirable entertainment, give our unqualified approval to these writings that glorify all the brutal passions, that move in a world unswayed by the moral law, and that substitute for the Christian precepts a gospel whereof Carlyle and Nietzsche are the evangelists? It is a serious question, whether the ideals of public and private morality, as reflected in the popular literature of the day, which this century is about to pass on to the next, will bear a favorable comparison with those which the last century bequeathed to our own.

"LA FORZA D'UN BEL VOLTO."

(After Michael Angelo.)

Skyward I'm drawn by light of thy fair face
 (Other delight on earth is left me none),
 And of the spirits elect I count me one:
 Was ever granted mortal man such grace?
 So well the Maker in thy form I trace
 That, seeing Him, already earth I shun:
 And well for me, — else were I all undone,
 Such flame for thee doth heart and mind enlance.
 Wherefore, if never my fixed gaze I turn
 From thy deep eyes, 't is that my bleeding feet
 Learn from their blessed light the path divine;
 And if in happy martyrdom I burn,
 'T is that the generous fire showeth sweet
 The joys that in the eternal heaven shine.

Palermo, Sicily.

M. B. A.

The New Books.

A GREAT AMERICAN POLITICIAN.*

Few Americans better deserve the appellation of "great politician" than William H. Seward. Born in 1801, he was already a party leader in his county at the early age of 23, and he continued active or interested in politics until his final retirement forty-five years afterwards at the age of 69. For much more than half of this period he was in public office. He was State Senator, 1829-1833; Governor of his State, 1839-1843; United States Senator, 1849-1861; and Secretary of State, 1861-1869, — making in all twenty-eight years of official life. Moreover, during seventeen years of the forty-five years that he was out of office he was not out of politics, for, as his present biographer remarks, speaking of the period following his retirement from the State Senate, "he always had time for profitable politics, and he knew how to plan." He sometimes wearied of political conflicts and party strife; he sometimes spoke of his principal employment for so many years in the tone of disgust, painting at the same time "a fond picture of retirement — his *otium cum dignitate* — oceans of leisure in midst of shrubs and flowers, as he jocosely translated it"; but there is less of this self-deluding sentiment in his biography than is to be found in the biographies of most public men of equal eminence. When he retired from the State Senate in 1833 and returned to the "much-coveted quiet of his study and profession," he wrote to his friend Weed rejoicing that he was "free from the wearying and 'unprofitable life' that he had been living at Albany, and hoped that he was at home to remain for a long time"; but he significantly added: "Keep me informed upon political matters, and take care that you do not so far get absorbed in professional occupations that you will cease to care for me as a politician." When a politician calls in his next friend in such fashion as this, he is not very likely to need his assistance. "The world knows," says our author, in relating this incident, "what the politician means when he says farewell." Seward spoke his true nature when, at the same period of his life, he wrote:

"I shall, from the force of constitutional bias, be found always mingling in the controversies which agitate the country. Enthusiasm for the right and ambi-

*THE LIFE OF WILLIAM H. SEWARD. By Frederick Bancroft. With portraits. In two volumes. New York: Harper & Brothers.

tion for personal distinction are passions of which I cannot divest myself, and while every day's experience is teaching me that the former is the very agent which must defeat the latter, I am far from believing that I should be most happy were I to withdraw altogether from political action."

The following addendum reveals that even then he was an adept in the genial optimistic philosophy which he so freely dispensed to others and employed so soothingly in his own case in after life.

"I shall go on as always, adopting what my judgment and my conscience approve. If my career ends where it now is, I shall have enjoyed, if not all I deserved, as much of success as is my reasonable share. If success comes as it hitherto has done, when I am laboring in what seems to me the right cause, it will be doubly gratifying, because it will bring no remorse."

The fact is, William H. Seward's mind and temper were thoroughly political, and he could no more keep out of politics than a fish can keep out of water.

The character of Mr. Seward's life naturally determines the character of Mr. Bancroft's book. Seward was, indeed, much more than a politician. He was a man of large mental and social cultivation; he delighted in nature and travel, and actually travelled far more than most of his compeers in public life; he was a lawyer, and rose to a high place, although not to the highest place, in his profession. Moreover, some of the author's most pleasing chapters deal with these interesting topics, such as "Travels," "Seward as a Lawyer," "Some Personal Traits and Characteristics," the "Man and Senator"; but such themes altogether, including the first years and last years of life, fill fewer than 100 of the 1225 pages that make up the two volumes. The work is emphatically a political biography. Still, we do not wish to imply that Seward was not statesman as well as politician.

With all his tact and arts of conciliation, traits in which he greatly excelled, Mr. Seward sharply divided men in opinion while he was living; and it is inevitable that any writer who deals with his history, if he attempts more than a bald sketch, will divide his readers now that Seward has long been dead.

First, there is the selection from the mass of material of such matter as will, when properly presented, give a full and fair view of Seward's life and character. Here we think Mr. Bancroft is deserving of commendation. He has studied his subject with evident thoroughness, and has shown good judgment in the selection of his matter. Mr. Seward's entry into public life was coincident with the sound and fury

that made up political anti-masonry; he identified himself with the Whig party at its formation, and continued, not merely a Whig, but a prominent Whig leader, until the dissolution of the party; he cast in his lot with the Republicans soon after the organization of that party, rose to the highest place in its councils but one, and, although he became widely separated from many of his old colleagues after the Civil War, he still favored the Republican Presidential candidates in 1868 and 1872. Here is a great variety of topics of the highest interest, and Mr. Bancroft has so handled them as to make perfectly clear what they are in themselves and what were Mr. Seward's relations to them. While we should have been pleased to see a little better sense of proportion in some parts of the work, we do not feel that we have serious cause for complaint. Our severest criticism would be that the last years of Seward's official life have been passed over too hurriedly. Some events of Johnson's administration, as his quarrel with Grant, may be referred to. It will be remembered that in the celebrated issue of "veracity" between the President and the General, Seward, in a way, endorsed his chief; but the incident is not mentioned in these pages.

But, secondly, the crucial test comes on the question of interpretation: what do the facts mean? Mr. Bancroft has been severely criticised for both the amount and the character of the commentary that he has incorporated in his history. He is continually interpolating, it is charged, unnecessary and unjust explanations of Seward's utterances and acts, particularly in the first volume, which closed with the Presidential election of 1860. We have not space to deal with this subject directly, farther than to observe that this volume does not, on the whole, leave on the mind a favorable impression of Mr. Seward as a politician, but rather distinctly the contrary.

Indirectly, however, we wish to say that Mr. Seward constantly challenges discussion and provokes commentary. He was not a man of simple but rather of complex mental character; few of our eminent statesmen have been more so; he is constantly arousing the activity of the harmonist or of the critic; and the biographer who should confine himself to the plain story, abjuring all attempts at interpretation, would show a rare power of self-abnegation. The principal questions are not only historically interesting but they are deeply rooted in the character of the man. What did

Seward really mean by the "higher law," the "irrepressible conflict," the peace-in-sixty-days prophecies, and by his proposal to Mr. Lincoln in the month of April, 1861, that war at home should be averted, or an attempt be made to avert it, by wantonly getting up war abroad? The biographer, especially if psychologically inclined, feels bound to make answer to these questions; but to make answer is to provoke disagreement. In complexity of character, Mr. Seward reminds us of Jefferson, of whom one of the best known of American historians says that he cannot be sketched in outline, but must be painted "stroke by stroke." We do not undertake to propound theories relative to these interesting questions; but for us, however it may be with others, Mr. Bancroft states the substance of truth when he says that William H. Seward was two men in one, John Quincy Adams and Thurlow Weed — "not less eager to inherit the mantle of the one than to be the beneficiary of the schemes and power of the other," but equally sincere in both cases. Our author says, dealing with the Senatorial period:

"Seward continued to hear the two voices — in fact, he continued to act two distinct roles. It was John Quincy Adams Seward that uttered the telling phrases and made the severe arraignments and was the hope of the radicals like Gerrit Smith, Theodore Parker, and, at times, of the Garrisonians. He usually favored what was boldest and most extreme if it stopped short of violence. On the other hand, Thurlow Weed Seward kept in close relations with the party organization; he watched the plans of the politicians, changed the programme to suit conditions, and tried to win all classes of men. Adams Seward was ardently anti-slavery and expected to live in history as a great philanthropist. Weed Seward was determined to control the patronage and to live in the White House. The one regarded himself as a martyr to a sacred cause, and wrote: 'I am alone, in the Senate and in Congress, and about in the United States, alone. While adhering faithfully to the Whigs, I dare to hold on the disallowed right of disfranchised men and classes. I must stand in that solitude and maintain it, or fall altogether.' The other was alone in deciding which principles and theories should be given prominence and which should be ignored or explained away. The result was that Seward continued to be the political favorite of a large proportion of the champions of freedom and of ardent youthful voters of the best impulses, as well as of the practical men and hard-headed politicians, calculating on tendencies and eager for office."

The meaning of all this is that Mr. Seward was a thorough-going opportunist, but certainly not an opportunist of the baser sort. That he often saw far into the future, and with perfect clearness, is true beyond question; but then again, politician that he was, he sometimes showed himself wholly blind to impending political changes of the most important character.

For one thing, he was slow to believe in the disruption of existing parties and the formation of new ones. At first he inclined to the Democratic-Republican party that Jefferson had founded, to which his father was firmly attached; but it was as impossible for him to act with that party, in the long run, as it was for him not to be a politician at all. He was impelled toward the other school of political thought by his mental character, as well as by his dislike of the Albany Regency; so that it was predetermined, as far as such things are predetermined, that he should be first a Whig and then a Republican. But first he toyed with the Anti-Masonic party. Young as he was in those days, Seward could hardly have had any faith in this movement as Anti-Masonry, and must have been drawn to it, or driven to it, as the only effectual or practical way of opposing the party then in power, and of promoting certain objects in which he was interested that had become associated with the Anti-Masonic movement. But with the Whigs, and later the Republicans, with their large national views, he was in his element.

Reverting to Seward's partial defect in political prevision, one is surprised to find him writing to Charles Sumner after the crushing defeat of the Whigs in 1852, when many leading men considered the defeat annihilation:

"I answer that just now there is nothing to say, only that recent events are what they were or might have been foreseen, and that they do not disturb me in the least. No new party will arise, nor will any old one fall. The issue will not change. We shall go on much as heretofore, I think, only that the last effort to convert the Whig party to slavery has failed."

Two years after this, the New York "Times," which reflected the sentiments of Seward and Weed, repeatedly predicted both Seward's nomination as a Whig candidate for the Presidency, and his election, in 1856. Seward did not look for the dissolution of the Whig party. Naturally, therefore, he took no part in the efforts made in 1854 to organize the Anti-Slavery forces of the country — efforts that led to the formation of the Republican party, of which he was proud a little later to be the great leader — but rather discouraged them. Naturally, too, Greeley wrote in "The Tribune," when the New York election was over:

"Instead, however, of taking the position which circumstances and his own antecedents seemed to require, Mr. Seward, adhering to the vacated shell of Whiggery, has stood aside and allowed the great movement of the Free States to go forward without a word of bold and hearty encouragement from its natural leader. The result is recorded in the returns of this election."

But Mr. Seward had a personal reason for going slowly at this time. His senatorial term would expire in 1855, and he did not wish to fall between stools. Here was more opportunism. What is more, the hesitancy and indecision which marks men of speculative mind, when the time comes for action, was no doubt a factor in the problem, as it was in many other problems in Mr. Seward's life. No doubt, too, such hesitancy or indecision is a part of opportunism. It is natural that a politician should be slow to believe that a great party that he has served and loved, and to which he is looking for favors, should be moribund; but Seward should have seen, at least after 1852, that such was the state of the Whigs.

Still, it was in those very days, perhaps, that Seward rendered his country the greatest service. This he did in the early, powerful, and constant testimony that he bore against Slavery. Of politicians of high rank, he was the first to discern the true nature of the peculiar institution, to see where it was bearing the country, to oppose it stoutly on high moral and political grounds, and to foretell what the end would be—freedom victorious over slavery. Witness his speech to the Whigs of the Western Reserve, made at Cleveland in 1848. To be sure, there was much in his life that was inconsistent with his lofty avowal of principle; but, politician as he was, he did not believe that the ends which he sought could be gained without the aid of a powerful political party, and so he clung to the Whigs even when it is hard to see how any man of his clearness of vision could discover any real soundness in the party.

With his defeat at Chicago in 1860, Mr. Seward seems definitively to have abandoned his presidential ambition; and with such abandonment, his political life, Mr. Bancroft holds, ascended to a higher level. He accounts him the greatest of American Secretaries of State, and believes that the estimation in which his great services in that office are held by the American people will increase rather than diminish as the years go by. A man of generous feeling, who agrees in the main with Seward's political ideas, can hardly fail to sympathize with him in the great disappointment of his life; but when we recall Seward's opportunism, and especially the manifestations of his opportunism in the period between the election of Mr. Lincoln and the conclusive joining of the issue in the succeeding year—reflecting upon the uncertainty of the result, if it had been left in

Seward's hands—one can hardly fail to see that the country had a fortunate escape from probable if not certain peril when the nomination went to the comparatively unknown candidate from Illinois.

It remains only to add that Mr. Bancroft has made a valuable contribution to a very important part of our political history.

B. A. HINSDALE.

NATURE BY DOWN AND PAVE.*

In Mr. W. H. Hudson's large and handsome volume entitled "Nature in Downland," the term "Downland" is applied to the range of low treeless hills popularly known as the South Downs, which run parallel with the line of the sea-coast in the county of Sussex, England. The hills are of chalk formation, with soft rounded outlines and fluted sides, and are covered with a thick fine turf which affords the best of pasturage for the famous breed of sheep bearing the name of the hills on which they feed.

To the average mind, these bare and monotonous elevations, as they are delineated by the author, and by the artist who assists him, are not particularly prepossessing; yet upon Mr. Hudson they exercised a fascination so absorbing and persistent that for weeks and months of the year 1899 he was rambling over them, a solitary but diligent student of their varying aspects and productions. Neither the heats of midsummer nor the storm and gloom of winter had force to lessen his enthusiasm. In storm or shine, in August or December, he was pleased to be out in the open alone, quietly noting the changes in earth and sky and in the wild life that came under his observation.

It was a singular choice of pastime or industry, judged by ordinary standards, but to him the returns were ample in satisfaction. Clad in a suit of grayish-brown tweeds, of the tint and texture best adapted to the purpose of the field naturalist—that of approaching unnoticed the bird or beast his eye was fixed on,—he prolonged his daily tramp for ten or twelve hours together. For food when hungry and for shelter at nightfall, he depended upon the hospitality of the cottagers whose humble habita-

* NATURE IN DOWNLAND. By W. H. Hudson. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

FLOWERS IN THE PAVE. By Charles M. Skinner. With Illustrations by Elizabeth Shippen Green and Edward Stratton Holloway. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

tions are found at long intervals in the desert-like region.

He carried no weapon of offense or defense, his intent being kindly toward every living creature, but he was never without one invariable companion, a powerful binocular, of all man's inventions that which to him "was the most like a divine gift." Nothing was too small or too mean to engage his attention with the help of this valuable aid to the vision. For hours he could gaze on the thistle-down filling the air, and he made it the subject of pages of reminiscent and original comment. The plants underfoot, the insects in the air, "the little winged men and women called birds," the animals clothed in scales or in fur, the clouds in the sky, all that is included in Nature, was the subject of his careful and minute consideration. He had the fine instinct which enables one to discern the beauty inherent in everything, "the beauty and grace and sweetness and melody" that exist everywhere. It was this that made "every hour of the day and every step of the way," during his months of solitary sauntering on the South Downs, a keen and pure delight such as the world dreams not of.

Mr. Hudson has heretofore made valuable contributions to the facts of natural history. His youth was spent on the plains of the Argentine Republic, and at this early period of life he developed a talent for searching and accurate inquiry into the secrets of the wild life about him, and an equal ability for reporting the discoveries that resulted. During his later sojourn in England he has continued in the same line of study, and his work has a value justly esteemed by the fellows of his craft. The present volume is a comprehensive survey of the structure, the surface, the specialties of the pastoral region of Sussex, not excluding its human characteristics. The narrative is in harmony with the subject, serene and uneventful. A series of expressive illustrations accompany the letter-press.

Mr. Charles M. Skinner has made his mark as a clever writer, always spirited and amusing, and at times brilliant. His name attached to a volume is therefore a definite recommendation. In the one now before us, "Flowers in the Pavé," he has brought together eleven short sketches, most of which relate to his experiences in contact with Nature. It is from the point of view of a nature-lover that he chiefly discourses, and many a bright, poetical, tender, and pathetic thing does he say to us in this amiable character.

It is a happy temperament which Mr. Skinner possesses, the æsthetic temperament with its gift for seeing the pictures and hearing the music of the universe. He is aware of these moving sights and sounds in the city streets, the back yards, the alleys even, and they appeal to him with persuasive joy by night as by day. Such spirits among us have a mission to fulfil. It is to awaken others to a sense of the delights which are common to all, which are as cheap as the daylight, and as much at our command as the air we breathe. Mr. Skinner appreciates the obligation which his gift lays upon him, and faithfully endeavors to communicate his pleasure in the beauty with which Nature surrounds us even in the densest cities' confines. In a characteristic passage, he says:

"There is always the sky; the stars are lighted after dark; some yards boast a spear or two of grass; distance will not be cheated of its magic, nor wholly shut off by buildings; there is even a tree now and again; and birds, dogs, cats, and children bring a touch of free life to the scene. . . . Some of the best hours in a man's life are those when he is beholden to nothing and nobody, when he simply looks at the sky or the woods or the hills, or from his window gazes into tree-tops,—clean and rare delight."

The foregoing passage is taken from the first and longest piece in the book. Next to this in our favor is the final essay, which is a grateful exposition of "The Kindness of Nature." We hear so much now-a-days of the cruelty of our earth-mother that a testimony to her loving intent toward her children comes with peculiar graciousness. We make room for a bit of this to show the force of the author's argument:

"For one who is crushed beneath a falling tree are there not a hundred thousand who eat its fruit, who rejoice in its shade, who breathe a purified air about it, who bask in its heat when it gives back its store of sunshine in our fireplace on a winter night? For one who succeeds in filling himself with malaria, through careless living, think how many find only health and beauty and food and business in the fields. . . . In the perfect order of Nature we read a kindness that is deeper than our ability to adjust ourselves to it. Man is more abusive than the earth. He slays for gain, he slays for sport, he fells the woods, he blasts the hills, he dries the streams, he mars loveliness, he lives un-beautifully, until he gets intelligence and sees that the rest of creation thrives by opposite conduct, when he begins to act with modesty and to harmonize his actions to those of the rest of the world."

Mr. Skinner is an optimist as well as a nature-lover, and preaches his glad gospel at every proper opening. It is enlivening to hear him say:

"I believe that the human type is bettering all the time, in spite of the people one meets in city slums and

other unexcellent places, where they seem to be sinking back from the standard."

And again:

"Do away with occasion for gloom. It is well with the rest of the world, so, why not with us? Let's be glad we were born, instead of sorry that other folks were. The hospitable state of mind is best, because it is most like nature."

We will make one more extract, because of its pungent suggestion;

"In my days of solitude in the fields the city weight falls off and I spring erect like a pine released after long bending. I live. I find myself. God forgive me for selling so much of my life for wages."

It is a sane and wholesome soul that can speak like this. Mr. Skinner reveres his instincts, and cherishes them; therefore it is that amidst the cark and care that business in a city inevitably imposes, there is still much saving "music and song" in his daily life.

After the examples we have given of the dash and humor and charm in Mr. Skinner's essays, we are forced to express the conviction that he could do much better if he desired, and that we ought really to demand a higher order of writing from a man with his pronounced and versatile talents. It is easy to imagine the finished work he might produce with deliberation and care and with the righteous ambition which should be a part of the equipment of every writer who asks the ear of the public.

SARA A. HUBBARD.

THE ROMANTIC HISTORY OF TEXAS.*

There is, perhaps, no State in the Union which possesses so individual, so striking, so picturesque a past as Texas. Six different sovereignties have in turn claimed her allegiance. Discovered and traversed by the adventurous Spaniards in the sixteenth century, no contestant appeared until La Salle, the explorer of the Mississippi, landed by mischance on the shores of the Espiritu Santo, in 1685, where he planted his short-lived colony. Then began the dispute over the possession of the territory, which ended only with the Mexican War. The coming of the French caused the Spaniards to occupy the country, their first establishment dating from 1690, many years before the hardy pioneers of the Atlantic States had crept past the barrier of the Alleghanies. More than a hundred years elapsed ere the

*A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF TEXAS. Edited by Dudley G. Wooten. In two volumes. Dallas, Texas: Published by William G. Scarff.

Anglo-Americans, owning the sovereignty of Mexico, entered that region as colonists. The time was short, however, after their coming until the province was in a state of insurrection; an insurrection which led to war and independence. The republic which was set up, after a decade, became a member of the Union; but when the great rupture of the States came, Texas cast her lot with the South. Since that time she has made wonderful progress both in material development and in the wider influence exerted on national affairs.

From this bare outline it must be perceived that the field of Texas history is broad and inviting. It is therefore with pleasure that we note the recent issue of what the publisher well pronounces an *Encyclopædia of Texas History*. The text is made up in the first part of Yoakum's "History of Texas" with some "supplemental" chapters; in the second, of "a complete history of the State of Texas from 1845 to 1897"; and in the third, of a series of articles covering such topics as the "Indian Tribes of Texas," etc. The republication of Yoakum's History, of which only a limited edition ever appeared (1855), is an important feature of the work. So far as the student of history is concerned, however, much of the value of this republication is lost in the failure to reprint the notes and citations of the original author. To aggravate this, new notes are occasionally added by F. W. Johnson, from his MS. History of Texas, which frequently take Yoakum to task without indicating any other authority than Mr. Johnson. This is always unfortunate, for the student has no clue whereby he may continue the search in the endeavor to arrive at the truth.

The sixteenth century, during which time Grijalva, Pineda, Cabeza de Vaca, Guzman, Coronado, and others, explored parts of the State, receives only passing notice in this work. The history proper begins with the landing of La Salle on the coast of the Espiritu Santo in February, 1685. Sieur de La Salle sailed to plant a colony on the Mississippi, then known as Rio del Espiritu Santo; but failing in his calculations, he entered a bay on the coast of Texas, since known as Matagorda. La Salle was slain, and the colony came to an end a few months after through Indian attacks and internal dissensions. But the Spaniards in Mexico had heard of the expedition, and soon a small army was on the soil of Texas. Precarious settlements were made as the Spaniards became alarmed for the safety of their sovereign's do-

minions. The State and Church marched hand in hand in forming missions: the territory would be preserved and the Indians converted. The mission-founding began in 1690, and continued irregularly for almost a century. Nineteen distinct establishments were made in the territory known as Texas. This most unique and interesting epoch—the Mission period—has received too little attention. When we consider that this *régime* lasted until the coming of the American colonists, and that it affected in no small measure the social, political, and economic development of the State, it must become apparent that the subject is worthy of more extended treatment than that which Yoakum gave it fifty years ago.

The period of American colonization began with Moses Austin, who went to Mexico in 1820, during the troublous times of the revolution, and secured a grant of land lying in the rich valley of the Colorado river. This colony became the nucleus of the present State, which now ranks seventh in population in the Union. The Austin MSS., printed in articles contributed by Guy M. Bryan, throw much light on the development of the colonies which were rapidly filled with emigrants from the "overcrowded" States.

The result of the occupation of Texas might have been forecast. Two peoples, with such distinct customs and ideas as the Americans and their Mexican rulers, could not hope to dwell in peace. By the year 1835 contentions and usurpations led to insurrection and war; 1836 found Santa Anna, the despot of Mexico, in the hands of the Texans as a result of the great victory of San Jacinto. In March of that year independence was declared. Such a state of affairs had been brought about, not by the slavery party of the South, as many anti-slavery writers have indicated, but chiefly by the original colonists, who fought for their rights in the first place with no idea of immediate freedom. This is clearly established by documentary evidence which must be considered by future students of the question of slavery. However, there remains much to be done in the way of writing the complete history of the sharp and bloody revolution which gave Texas her independence. The Mexican version of the matter, with the political history of the colonies during the conflict and through the period of independent existence, offer tempting inducements to the investigator.

At the time of the revolution, Texas was inhabited by about 30,000 Anglo-Americans,

5,000 slaves, 3,000 Mexicans, and 14,000 Indians. During the period of the Republic, which lasted from 1836 to 1845, the population grew at a tremendous rate. The story of the annexation is well told in these volumes, in an essay by General Sam Bell Maxey. The struggle in the State itself is contrasted with the larger controversy which was precipitated in the Union over the question of the annexation. The full import of the accession of Texas on the politics of the time, on the slavery agitation, on the aggressive spirit of the nation, is not brought out satisfactorily. Indeed, thus far the subject of the Mexican War has received no adequate or competent treatment. The causes which gave rise to it were not all of recent growth; some of them dated from the Louisiana Purchase, some earlier, some later. The immediate cause of the Mexican War—the annexation of Texas—has been allowed to obscure all others. The Mexican government, at that time rent by faction and revolution, inherited the odium which had been originally Spain's—and suffered in consequence. In another sense, the Mexican War was a manifestation of the predatory tendencies of the Anglo-Saxon race.

From the Mexican War to 1895 the history is narrated by ex-Governor Oran M. Roberts, recently deceased. It is a concise, praiseworthy discussion, which, however, deals primarily with political aspects. The history of the growth of parties in the State is not so well told elsewhere. Naturally, having played a part in the proceedings himself, some allowance must occasionally be made for the personal element. The exciting years which preceded the Civil War are well presented. The division of the people over the question of secession is notable; the contest was bitterly waged, but, once committed to a policy, the State stood manfully by its position.

The more recent events, as well as many of the essays, have interest only for those vitally concerned with the history of the State. However, some of the special articles are noteworthy contributions to the history of the Southwest. Examples are "The Fredonian War," "Official Documents, Laws, Decrees, and Regulations Pertaining to Austin's Colonies," "The Indian Tribes of Texas," "Spanish and Mexican Titles to Land in Texas, their Origin and History, 1691-1835." The last contribution, "The Results of Fifty Years of Progress in Texas," is a fitting close to the history.

The arrangement of the materials might

have been varied a little with profit; but lack of unity, from the nature of the case, could not have been avoided. The failure to cite, from page to page, the authorities and sources drawn upon, detracts much from the worth of the History. It must be said, too, that a few of the contributions are hardly more than memoirs — but memoirs of much import. An ample index adds much to the convenience of the reader. The two thousand pages of the two volumes, with their three hundred and sixty-four illustrations, exhibit a neatness and finish which would do credit to any publishing house. In fine, the work as a whole marks an epoch in the making of Texas history.

WALTER F. McCALEB.

RECENT FICTION.*

When Mr. Robert Herrick published "The Gospel of Freedom," a year or two ago, he gave evidence of a degree of constructive skill and artistic sincerity that augured well for whatever future work he might produce. Up to that time his work had been tentative and confined within narrow limits; he had undertaken nothing of really ambitious design. But "The Gospel of Freedom" at once gave him an assured place among our serious novelists, and suggested even finer powers than it exhibited. Of his new novel, "The Web of Life," we are not justified in saying that it exhibits an advance upon the earlier work, but it is safe to say that there has been no retrogression. It is a strongly conceived domestic story, filled with earnestness and fine idealism. Possibly the idealism is somewhat too impatient, and the earnestness too unrelieved by those lighter touches that writers of more experience, however serious their ultimate purpose, usually contrive to add; but these defects — if such they be — do not

weigh very much against the admirable accomplishment of the book. The hero is a young man of fine impulses set in the midst of a sordid society, and revolting with his whole soul against the gross and selfish ideals that surround him on every hand. His revolt is so extreme that he casts aside what are commonly considered "opportunities" for advancement, and goes so far as to defy all the conventions by living without the customary legal sanctions in company with the woman whom he loves. The story of his struggle for a living under these conditions, and of the heroic act by which the woman, at last grown conscious that she is ruining his career, sacrifices her own life to set him free, is told with directness and simple pathos. He has learned at last how hard it is to kick against the pricks, and is ready to take up the life of external conformity without any abandonment of internal principle. The scene is laid in Chicago, concerning which community the writer finds occasion to utter many truths unpalatable to its inhabitants. That they are truths is undeniable to any disinterested observer; perhaps it is fair to say that they are not sufficiently relieved by other truths of the more agreeable sort. Somehow the book leaves the impression of a society in which there is no such thing as purity of motive or elevation of soul; it is, as we said before, the book of an impatient idealist, of a writer whose indignation has got the better of his sympathies. We expect that Mr. Herrick will fall into a mellower vein after a time, and thereby gain a wider influence than he can expect to exert through a book like "The Web of Life," with all its serious sincerity of purpose.

"The Prelude and the Play," by Mr. Rufus Mann, is a novel that may be coupled with the one just now under discussion, although it is far inferior in execution. The style is pretentious and affected; the elaboration of motive and analysis is greatly overdone. This novel also has its scene in Chicago — at least in large part — and it also presents the contrast — although not so sharply — between the

*THE WEB OF LIFE. By Robert Herrick. New York: The Macmillan Co.

THE PRELUDE AND THE PLAY. By Rufus Mann. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

UNLEAVENED BREAD. By Robert Grant. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

THE ACTION AND THE WORD. By Brander Matthews. New York: Harper & Brothers.

ROBERT TOURNAY. A Romance of the French Revolution. By William Sage. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE BLACK TERROR. A Romance of Russia. By John A. Lays. Boston: L. C. Page & Co.

THE TOUCHSTONE. By Edith Wharton. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

SENATOR NORTH. By Gertrude Atherton. New York: John Lane.

THE REBEL. By H. B. Marriott Watson. New York: Harper & Brothers.

A KENT SQUIRE. By Frederick W. Hayes. New York: The F. M. Lupton Publishing Co.

FEO. A Romance. By Max Pemberton. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

THE PRINCESS SOPHIA. A Novel. By E. F. Benson. New York: Harper & Brothers.

JOAN OF THE SWORD HAND. By S. R. Crockett. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

THE ISLE OF THE WINDS. An Adventurous Romance. By S. R. Crockett. New York: Doubleday & McClure Co.

THE MIX. By Mrs. Mannington Caffyn. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co.

FOLLY CORNER. By Mrs. Henry Dudeney. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE CROSS. By Henryk Sienkiewicz. Second Volume. Translated by Jeremiah Curtin. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co.

THE BARON'S SONS. By Maurus Jokai. Translated by Percy Favor Bicknell. Boston: L. C. Page & Co.

CURRITA, COUNTESS OF ALBORNOZ. A Novel of Madrid Society. By Luis Coloma. Translated by Estelle Huyek Atwell. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co.

THE JOY OF CAPTAIN RIBOT. By A. Palacio Valdés. Translated by Minna Caroline Smith. New York: Brentano's.

ideal plane of life and the lower material plane. "These men here would n't be half bad if they could only forget their principles," is a remark made by one of the characters, and we feel like applying it to the author himself. He is so intent upon principles that he altogether fails to give us characterization, and there is not a figure in his book that seems really alive. A pretty enough sentiment takes the place of passion, and the characters are moved about like pawns on a chessboard; we never feel that they are moving themselves. We should add that it is dangerous to use French and Italian words without knowing the languages. An Italian who said "non, signora" would be a curiosity, a woman cannot be *épris*, and there is no such monster as a *bête noir* known to syntax.

It is a far cry from "The Confessions of a Frivolous Girl," a youthful indiscretion which Mr. Robert Grant now doubtless wishes were forgotten, to "Unleavened Bread," his latest work of fiction. It is not so far a cry from his more recent chapters on "The Art of Living," but even in this latter comparison the distance is considerable, being the distance between a light and superficial social philosophy and a dissection of society that probes far beneath the surface and lays bare the nerves and arteries. "Unleavened Bread," considered as a story, is an account of the career of one ambitious woman; all of its other characters are of minor importance, and have little interest for us. Considered as a social study, the book is a quiet and effective satire upon American democracy, that is, upon the pretensions of the democratic spirit to reach valid conclusions by the aid of its own untutored instincts, upon its tendency to substitute catchwords for ideas, and to be deceived by its own phrases. The satire is effective precisely because it is both quiet and restrained; the writer is too conscientious an artist to put violent colors upon his canvas. Among the special subjects of his satire are the notions of art and of education, of society and of politics, that prevail in our middle-class American life. The notions of art, for example, that make our large cities a medley of incongruous architectural styles and that erect grotesque statues in our public places; the notions of education that place our schools in the hands of ignorant men and fill them with untrained teachers; the notions of society that exalt showiness above refinement, and extravagance above simplicity; the notions of politics that make sincerity an almost impossible virtue in public life and that blunt both the intellect and the moral sense. This seems a rather heavy programme for a work of fiction, and the book itself, if not exactly heavy, certainly does not come within the category of light reading. It opens in a manner somewhat suggestive of such a book as the "Modern Instance" of Mr. Howells, then it seems to suggest something of the moralizing atmosphere of Mr. Warner's group of three novels, but in the final impression it stands out as a work of distinctively original type. The ambitious woman about

whom all the interest centres, and who is so marked an embodiment of the crudities, the self-deceptions, and the ill-directed aims that are characteristic of many of our men and women alike, is a figure drawn with extraordinary intellectual detachment, and, it must be admitted, has little of the flesh and blood that are needed to make such a figure really vital. We follow her career with curious interest, but we feel all the time that she is a puppet, with the strings always in the author's hand. The vital characters of fiction do not leave us with this impression; they seem in a way to pass beyond the control of the writer, and to act of their own motion. In this respect Mr. Grant's heroine is a failure, his book is a failure in this sense also, but it is nevertheless a remarkable piece of workmanship, relatively speaking, and judged with reference to its limitations.

One of the many morals of Mr. Grant's novel is that a man knows very little about his wife until they have been married for a considerable length of time. This rather trite observation is enforced in "Unleavened Bread" with so much impressiveness that it gains a deeper meaning than it is wont to have. In "The Action and the Word," the latest novel of Mr. Brander Matthews, the idea is again illustrated, although in this case it affords matter for comedy rather than for tragedy, or even for serious dramatic effect. We have here the story of a New York architect and his wife. The wife is a charming woman with a marked aptitude for amateur theatricals. Her acting wins such applause that her head is almost turned, and she seems upon the point of abandoning domestic life for the excitements of the stage. Happily, her better judgment triumphs and she gives up the notion, but her husband has been startled out of his complacency, and the novelist has been provided with the material for a pretty story. The story is not deep, certainly, but it exhibits keen insight and deft workmanship. It proves exceptionally entertaining, which is probably all that the writer expected of it.

"Robert Tournay," by Mr. William Sage, is a conventional romance of the French Revolution, one of the many books that find their prototype in "Mademoiselle de la Seiglière." There is the usual noble family, with its selfish aristocratic prejudices, and the usual fair daughter, who has a heart as well as a title. There is also the usual man of the people, who dares to love the daughter of his aristocratic master, and to whom the Revolution brings the usual opportunities for protecting the woman whom he loves from her enemies, and for rescuing her from imminent death. As is usually the case in novels of this sort, we are told about the destruction of the Bastille, the burning of a chateau, and the horrors of a Republican *noyade* on the Loire. We have also the familiar story of Republican victories on the frontier, and of the Terror in Paris. Robespierre and Danton are both here, likewise the Conciergerie and the tumbrils and the guillotine. We have read it all many times before, but its in-

terest seems perennial, and we have no fault to find with the author for inviting us to read it again.

When we are confronted with such a title as "The Black Terror: A Romance of Russia," we at once know what to expect. There will be nihilists and dungeons and conspiracies and reprisals and brutal governors and sinister officers of the Third Section. There will also be a lovely heroine who will aid the hero in some hairbreadth escape. In the case of the present novel, the work of Mr. John K. Leys, we are not disappointed in any of these expectations, and we have besides the story of an ingenious plot, successfully carried out, to kidnap the Tsar, and keep him in close confinement until he grants to his subjects the desired Constitution.

Mrs. Edith Wharton's second book of fiction is not a collection of stories, like "The Greater Inclination," but a single novel. Yet "The Touchstone," although we must call it a novel, has really no more substance than one of the briefer sketches. It is the story of a single incident, and of its influence upon the lives of a man and his wife. It is a story that might easily have been told in fifty pages; the hundred additional pages that are given us merely serve to permit of a more detailed analysis of the situation created by a single thoughtless act. Yet we would not spare from the story a single page, for the writer's art is so exquisite that no one of her pages seems superfluous, or fails in its contribution to the deep impressiveness of her psychological study. If the book has a defect, that defect must be sought in the central conception, and not in the treatment. The hero has in his possession a great many letters, of the most intimate character, written to him by a woman who had loved him all her life, but whom he had been incapable of loving in return. That woman had become a famous writer, and, after her death, anything that could throw light upon her personality was eagerly demanded by the public. The recipient of the letters, learning of this demand, and for lack of money unable to marry the woman he loves, actually sells this sacred correspondence to a publisher, suppressing his own name, and thereby removes the obstacle to his marriage. When he realizes what he has done he becomes remorseful, and Mrs. Wharton's purpose is to direct our attention to the workings of his conscience, to excite our sympathies for his sufferings. In this she is imperfectly successful, for it would tax the powers of the greatest novelist that ever lived to be entirely successful in such a task. The act in question is so despicable that no motive would seem adequate for its justification, no circumstances could be found more than palliating in the case of such an offense. Mrs. Wharton's treatment of this theme is all that we might desire, but it cannot give us a genuinely sympathetic interest in such a person as her hero. We cannot help feeling that he deserves even more than he suffers, and we remain suspicious of any moral regeneration that is brought about by means of his remorse. Yet it is the clear intention of the writer to have us ac-

cept this moral regeneration as a fact, and to forgive the offender as his own deceived wife forgives him in the end. In a word, the substance of this book is of a kind to repel rather than to attract; what does attract, and even fascinate, is the delicacy of texture and the distinction of style which the work exhibits.

Whatever we may think of Mrs. Atherton's "Senator North," it would never occur to us to accord it the attributes of delicacy and distinction. In the place of the one it has a sort of rude energy; in the place of the other it has a form of expression which is rough in sound and crude in coloring, which is positively repellant to a refined sense. Here is a sentence fairly representative of its style. "In ordinary conditions politics are barely mentioned when the most political city in the world is in evening dress, but war is a microbe." The ineptitude of that metaphor would be hard to match. Mrs. Atherton's novel deals with the social and political life of Washington at the present day. The heroine is a young woman of aristocratic breeding, who becomes weary of the whole empty round of the life of a self-styled "society," and who makes up her mind to go in for politics. To the horror of her family, she actually cultivates the acquaintance of Representatives and Senators, and starts a sort of *salon* for the furtherance of her new-found interests. The one conspicuous result of this activity is the fact that she falls in love with Senator North, a statesman of sixty, who has an invalid wife. This unnatural passion is reciprocated, and neither of the two parties concerned seems to have any particularly conscientious scruples, although both have a lively sense of the desirability of escaping discovery. In the end, the invalid wife opportunely dies, and conventional morality is spared any further outrage. Incidentally, the story makes much of two matters of social and political interest. The former is the ostracism placed by American prejudice upon any woman who has a drop of negro blood in her veins. This matter is dealt with in the most morbid and sensational manner possible. The latter is the state of affairs which led to our recent war with Spain, and in her treatment of this subject the writer displays an unexpected sanity, and exhibits a rather remarkable intellectual grasp of the situation. Both the unreasoning frenzy which precipitated that war, and the dangerous *sequelæ* of its conclusion, are set forth with an ethical perception that is entirely just, and that contrasts strikingly with the other ethical ideals of the book.

Mr. H. B. Marriott Watson's latest novel, "The Rebel," turns from the imaginary history wherein his invention has of late been exercised to the actual history of England in the time of Charles II. It takes the form of a memoir of the fourth Earl of Cherwell, written by his cousin, and leading up to an account of the rising at Taunton in 1684. The hero is a noble swashbuckler who has no hesitation in setting the laws at defiance, and whose audacity fairly takes our breath away. He contrives to stand

well with the King, who has a certain admiration for his recklessness, but he is the declared enemy of the Duke of York, whose shameful persecution of the heroine leaves him indeed no room for respect. The heroine is a gentle creature, who serves well enough as a foil for her fiery and turbulent defender, but who has otherwise slight claim upon our interest. It is needless to say that the Duke's villainy comes to naught, and that the heroine is rescued from the manifold perils that beset her. The plot of the narrative is at first confused and difficult to follow, but the complications are gradually cleared away, and it takes a straightforward course to the close. The story is told forcibly and with brilliant animation.

Mr. Frederick W. Hayes is a new writer to us, but he deserves well of the novel-reading public. His "Kent Squire" is a historical romance of the time of Queen Anne and the Duke of Marlborough. The latter personage figures prominently in the history, and his duplicity is depicted with an unsparing hand. French and Spanish political intrigue, as well as English, make up a large part of the historical substance of this highly exciting narrative. Indeed, the canvas is so crowded with figures and dramatic situations that the reader becomes almost dazed in his attempt to keep track of all the personal and public interests at stake. That this task proves too much for the writer himself is evident in the closing chapters, for with respect to some of its leading issues the story is not ended at all, it simply stops. Most of the incidents are legitimate enough for this sort of sensational romance, but credulity is strained beyond the breaking-point when the hero reappears upon the scene after having been hanged by the public executioner, and afterwards suspended in chains upon the gibbet. So violent a wrench to the feelings might have been spared us without serious difficulty, and we might also have been spared the apparition of the condemned man to his sweetheart some hundreds of miles away. Aside from these two constructive defects, the story is to be commended for both its invention and its acquaintance with the period in question. It is evident that the writer has done a great deal of "reading up" for his work, that he has delved into the memoirs of the age, instead of remaining content, as most historical novelists do, with the superficial knowledge of the text-books.

Mr. Max Pemberton's "Féa" is the romance of a singer in French opera and an Austrian prince. The heroine is the daughter of a decayed gentleman who cares for little save his own personal comfort, and is not above the meanness of trading upon his daughter's beauty. The rank of the hero naturally hedges him about with all sorts of barriers to the accomplishment of his wishes, and the story tells us how he has his way in the end, in spite of all the diplomatic locksmiths. It is a story of intrigues and duels and abductions, a little melodramatic in manner, infused with sentiment, and sparkling with interest. No one will regret having read it,

and no one will remember anything about it a year afterwards.

Mr. E. F. Benson, in "The Princess Sophia," again exhibits his versatility. The book may be described as standing midway between the frivolity of "Dodo" and the seriousness of his two Greek novels. The new story is the next thing to being Greek itself, for it is about the principality of Rhodopé, which lies, "as everyone knows, on the wooded coast-line of Albania." It tells about the politics of this extremely interesting imaginary State, and describes the attempt of Petros, the husband of the Princess, acting as regent in her absence from the capital, to subvert the government, and get secure possession of the reins of power. The thwarting of this plot provides the story with a really thrilling climax, although the spirit of the book throughout is that of refined comedy rather than of anything more serious. The interest of the story is concentrated in the character of the Princess, and her passion for gambling, which leads her to the very brink of disaster, and which has a most demoralizing influence upon her subjects.

Mr. S. R. Crockett has now close upon a score of romances to his credit, and there is no reason why he should not make the number twoscore within a few years. He evidently writes with the ease of a Dumas, and his invention never seems to flag. Two of his books are now before us: one a romance of the fifteenth century, entitled "Joan of the Sword Hand"; the other a more modern tale of his own Scotland and of the West Indies, entitled "The Isle of the Winds." Both stories abound in picturesque incident and exciting adventure, both are about as unreal as stories of the sort can possibly be, and both are fairly reeking with sentimentality. The latter of the two has, we observe, been previously published with another title.

In writing "The Minx," Mrs. Mannington Caffyn has determined to be "smart" at any cost. Her epigrams have the air of being profoundly philosophical, and the conversation of her characters fairly coruscates with intellectual brilliancy. She never permits one of them to express even a commonplace idea without giving it a verbal turn that seems impressive until we look closely enough to detect its emptiness. In a word, the style of the book is simply intolerable, and the story has not intrinsic interest enough to be worth disentanglement from all the verbiage which invests it. It is about a young woman who takes life with intense seriousness and does not know which of two lovers to accept. The one satisfies her intellectual ideals, but the other appeals to the just-awakening emotional side of her nature. Eventually, the heart triumphs over the head, and her final choice rests upon the warm-hearted fox-hunting country gentleman whose whole way of looking at life stands in violent contrast to the abstract ideals which she has hitherto held sacred.

A novel published last year by Mrs. Henry Dudeney forced us to condemn the uncompromising

realism of the writer — both with respect to choice of subject and to treatment — in spite of the manifest power of the book. "Folly Corner," a second story by the same writer, is less open to objection, and it is possible for praise to balance blame, if not actually to outweigh it. There is still much unnecessary insistence upon unlovely and squalid details, and some unnecessary obtrusion of those phases of life concerning which no writer can be too reticent, but there is also a sombre power to envisage the tragical side of everyday life which goes far to redeem the grossness of the writer's naturalism. We read this book with something of the feeling aroused by the later books of Mr. Thomas Hardy, a feeling in which admiration for undeniable talent is all the time struggling with impatience of a perverse method. This suggestion of Mr. Hardy is no mere fancy, for he is certainly the master whom Mrs. Dodeney would acknowledge among the writers of to-day.

The second half of "Knights of the Cross," by Mr. Henryk Sienkiewicz, carries on the story of the struggle between Poland and the Teutonic Knights, ending with the battle of Grunwald and the final overthrow of the Order. This climax is not without impressiveness, yet its effect is far from equal to that of several episodes to be found in the author's earlier trilogy of Polish history. It does not begin to stir the blood as the siege of Chenstohova, for example, stirs it. Nor does Zbyshko make as satisfactory a hero as Kmita or Pan Michael. There is a great deal of fighting in the book, but it grows rather monotonous, and is not diversified by such feats of individual prowess as hold us spellbound in the romances of the earlier series. Nor is there any figure for a moment comparable with that of Zagloba, which must stand as the greatest of the author's creative triumphs. It is only in comparison with the author's own best that the present romance suffers. Were it our introduction to his genius, we should find it difficult to praise sufficiently the historical pageant which it unfolds, its simple strong-souled figures swayed by primitive passions, its brilliant invention, and its racy humor. But all of these things are exhibited to much better advantage in the great trilogy, and we fear that Mr. Sienkiewicz will not again reach the level of that colossal work.

Still another of Mr. Jokai's novels has been translated for us, the selection this time being "The Baron's Sons," and the translator Mr. Percy Favor Bicknell. Some abridgements have been made, for which a very lame excuse is offered, but otherwise the translation is satisfactory. The story is concerned with the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, and combines the use of historical material with domestic incidents in a happy and interesting fashion. The thread of the narrative is a little difficult to follow, which is probably due in part to the liberties taken by the translator. On the whole, the story is one of the author's best, as far as they have been trans-

lated, and does not strain our credulity as much as some of its predecessors have done.

A few words about two recent translations from the Spanish may be given in closing this review. "Currita, Countess of Alborno" is the work of a Jesuit priest, Señor Luis Coloma by name. It is a novel of Madrid society about thirty years ago, and is concerned with political intrigue as well as with the doings of the fashionable world. The authorship of the work leads us to expect a strong infusion of clericalism, in which we are not disappointed; but the foremost aim of the novelist is to draw a picture of social corruption rather than to play the part of the avowed preacher, and he brings to this task the full equipment of an experienced observer and a master of incisive and caustic speech. The work is rather shapeless as a whole, but it has much brilliant detail, and its moral lesson is made all the sharper for being left rather implicit than outspoken. It is clear that we are all the time in contact with a richly cultured mind, and this gives so much satisfaction to the reader of discernment that the amateurish character of the artistic performance may easily be overlooked. We could wish that a better English version of the work had been given us. The translator seems to have a fair knowledge of Spanish, but she is all at sea in the presence of the scholarly allusions and foreign proper names with which the novel is plentifully sprinkled.

"The Joy of Captain Ribot" is not only an interesting novel, it is also a work of gracious and exquisite art. Although it has for its theme the love of a man for a woman already married, it is at once so delicate and so noble in its treatment that the author's own claim is justified when he calls it, in a private letter, "a protest from the depths against the eternal adultery of the French novel." For the "joy" of its hero is not so much in his love as in the moral triumph which keeps that love unallied, and rises victorious above every temptation. So clean and wholesome a work rarely comes to us from a novelist of Latin race; its idealism makes not the slightest compromise with evil, and in its spirituality there is no base admixture. Yet with all this exultation of sentiment, the story is convincingly real; it is a story of everyday people, and of life unfalsified by rose-colored glasses. Mr. Howells is entirely right when he describes the book as "a novel of manners, the modern manners of provincial Spain"; and when he adds that "while we were spoiling our prostrate foe, I wish we could have got some of these," he expresses a feeling that must be stirring in many an American conscience, now that we are starting on the painful path of recovery from our national military debauch. It is certainly difficult to find words adequate to express the admirable qualities of this latest of the novels of Señor Valdés, or of the genius of the nation that can boast the possession of such writers. WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

*New text-books in
English literature.*

We have had, of recent years, some fairly satisfactory text-books in English literature, but there is room for improvement in the best of them, and we are glad to observe the appearance of several new competitors for the favor of educators. Among the many books upon this subject which we have examined, we are inclined to give the palm to the "History of English Literature" (American Book Co.) recently prepared by Mr. Reuben Post Halleck. For selection and arrangement of material, for usefulness of pictorial illustration, and for its happy faculty of saying just the right thing about a given author or work, it would be difficult to improve upon this text. It provides a continuous and interesting history of our literature, and contrives to keep a middle course between the dry summary on the one hand, and the discursive essay on the other. The writer believes thoroughly in teaching the history of the subject as well as in taking up the study of individual works. He justly says: "Various masterpieces seem like unconnected islands in an unexplored ocean. There is no way of making these masterpieces seem otherwise except by teaching the history and development of the literature of which they form a part." The apparatus of this book, with its directions for required and optional reading and its suggestive questions and exercises, is remarkably good. One feature of particular interest is the literary map of England which serves as a frontispiece. We take great pleasure in commending this work to the attention of teachers.—A literary map also accompanies the "History of English Literature" (Sibley & Ducker) which Professor F. V. N. Painter has recently published. This book is an expansion of the writer's earlier "Introduction," and deals at length with nearly twice as many authors. Eight periods are recognized, and to each of them a considerable chapter is devoted. The method employed is that of writing an essay upon each period as a whole, and then dealing in considerable detail with a few selected writers. Thirty-two authors altogether, from Chaucer to Ruskin, are thus singled out for somewhat elaborate treatment. This method has the obvious defect of giving other great writers much less than their due in the history of our literature. We cannot entirely approve of a work that relegates Fielding in the Queen Anne period, Burke in the Johnsonian period, and Keats in the Romantic period, to the position of minor writers. The author's style is too discursive to be in the best sense practical. His essays make pleasant reading, but they do not make the most satisfactory sort of teaching material. He is the kind of writer, moreover, who speaks of "female poets," and who calls Byron "immoral." Such infelicities of diction and characterization have a slightly jarring effect, and do not commend the writer to persons of nice judgment.—A third recent text-book upon this subject

is the "Outline History of English and American Literature" (American Book Co.) written by Dr. Charles F. Johnson. The writer's object has been "to compress into this book the minimum of what every young person should know of the literature of his own country and England, even if his education is strictly scientific." The author recognizes ten periods in the history of English literature, but preserves the sense of proportion in dealing with the writers of each of the periods. In spite of the fact that he deals with both English and American literature in a single volume, he finds room for numerous extracts, many of them of considerable length. The book is remarkably well written, and will be welcomed by teachers who find their English courses unduly limited by the pressure of other subjects upon the curriculum.

*Memoirs of a
New England
schoolmaster.*

John Adams, the New England schoolmaster, was a man "of the old school" both in character and educational methods. Born in 1772 and dying in 1863, his life touched the two greatest of our national experiences, and covered the period of our establishment as an independent and united nation. Through his influence upon thousands of young men who, at Phillips Academy, at Andover, and other schools, were under his care, Mr. Adams bore an honorable part in the work of upbuilding the country. The list of prominent men trained at Andover during the twenty-two years he was its principal is a long one. Oliver Wendell Holmes was one of them, and has given in his verses many pictures of the life there. He refers to Mr. Adams in the well-known lines:

"Uneasy lie the heads of all that rule,
His most of all whose kingdom is a school."

While Mr. Adams will be chiefly remembered as principal of Andover Academy, to many he is an interesting figure as the father of the brilliant New York minister, Reverend William Adams; to others, as a pioneer missionary of the S. S. Union in Illinois; to others still, as one of the original circle of philanthropists from whose labors grew the American Tract Society and the Temperance movement. He was a man of profound religious convictions and a high sense of spiritual obligations. His character had no complexity or uncertainties. It was built about one simple all-controlling quality, "devotedness to duty"; it had but one simple unchanging aim, to serve God and his generation. Contact with such a nature, in life or in books, is refreshing. In bringing before the reader this strong and useful life, the authors of the well-written memoir of Mr. Adams recently published (Scribner) give also an entertaining and valuable picture of the characteristics and educational methods of a New England academy. It is this portrayal, together with the interesting associations of his long life, that give to this memoir more than a private value. The book is noticeably well printed and bound, and evinces good taste throughout.

*Letter-day
Liberty poems.*

The volume of "Liberty Poems" (James H. West Co.), which has been compiled in the interest of the anti-imperialist agitation, ought to prove an effective auxiliary in the cause of justice and public morality, now at stake as only once before in the history of our country. It is a collection of about seventy-five pieces of verse, written by various hands in various manners, and inspired by a common indignation at the attempted subversion of the fundamental principles of our government. We wish it were possible to say that all of these poems rose to the height of their great occasion. But most of them belong to the category of newspaper verse, hastily written by persons having no special aptitude for the poetic art. If Lowell and Whittier and Emerson were still alive, a very different collection would be possible; for who could doubt that their voices would again be raised in behalf of human freedom, as they were so effectively raised fifty years ago? As it is, very few of the names signed to these pieces have any literary significance whatever. The best poems in the collection are Mr. William Lloyd Garrison's thirteen sonnets, Mr. W. C. Gannett's "At the Peace Congress," Miss Baskam's "The Voice of the Lord," and a selection from Mr. William Vaughn Moody's noble "Ode in Time of Hesitation." We must find room for one quotation, and it shall be Mr. Garrison's tribute to Governor Boutwell, that venerable and venerated statesman, the representative of a vanishing type, who has declared himself with no uncertain voice to stand upon the side of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln in the present crisis:

"Not thine the sadness of an outlived fame,
Nor fate to lag superfluous on the stage:
Thou addest only strength to ripest age,
And lustre to a lifelong honored name.
In a degenerate day, when public shame
And private avarice stain the nation's page,
When sordid ends the growing youth engage,
Thy burning words are like a torch of flame.
New England glories in thy manhood rare,
Which, breaking party shackles, stands erect
And breathing deeply of diviner air,—
Enrolls thy name among the great elect.
Thy topmost boughs the richest leafage bear,
Thy latest fruit compels the world's respect."

*The records of
a long and
useful life.*

One who is interested in genealogical investigations learns to avail himself of all sorts of scraps of information. He also has frequent occasion to express regret that some individual who knew many facts of family history died without leaving any record of them. It is not every genealogist, however, who is able to write the story of his own life, in order that no future family historian may have occasion to blame him for omitting to preserve details of possible interest to descendants. The love of genealogy led to the publication, by General Roeliff Brinkerhoff, of Mansfield, Ohio, of his "Recollections of a Lifetime" (Robert Clarke Company). For years Mr. Brinkerhoff has been a recognized leader of move-

ments having for their purpose the improvement of the condition of criminals and unfortunates, and in this capacity he has been interested in National Congresses of Charities and Corrections, National Prison Congresses, and in many state movements. The most valuable chapters in the volume are those which are taken up with discussions of these matters. For the most part, the life described is that of the average man, who, as school-teacher, lawyer, or soldier, plays well his part in the social circles of his home city, is honored and respected by his neighbors and friends, and by reason of years of faithful adherence to the principles of right living makes himself a place in his day and generation. The story will, of course, have most interest for those who have known the author during his long and useful life.

*Summary of the
jurisprudence
of the world.*

A summary, in chronological order, of the principal features of the jurisprudence of the leading peoples of the world, has been prepared by Professor Guy Carleton Lee, of Johns Hopkins University, and published under the title "Historical Jurisprudence" (Macmillan). Finding "the foundations of law" in the jurisprudence of Babylonia, Egypt, Israel, and India, the author exhibits "the development of jurisprudence" as displayed in the Roman systems of law, to which over a third of his less than two hundred pages are appropriately devoted. The great work of Justinian is explained at some length, and the projections of the Roman Law into mediæval times are illustrated under the titles of the "Canon Law" and the "Barbarian Codes." The survival of the elaborate Roman system in modern times is traced into the laws of the western continental states of Europe, and the laws of Scotland, in which it secured permanent position. The book closes with an account of the introduction of the principles of the civil law into the jurisprudence of England. From the evidences of customary law furnished by the unearthed contract-tablets of Babylonia, to the early commentaries on the law of England, runs the curriculum of this new study in jurisprudence, on the comparative historical plan. The book is full of meat, and though intended as "an introduction to the systematic study of the development of law" (see title-page) it will prove of much interest to all students of general history.

*Recollections
of a busy life.*

The memories of a man who has lived much and has the art of telling about it gracefully can hardly fail to be entertaining. Mr. H. Sutherland Edwards, in his "Personal Recollections" (Cassell), has given us the record of a long and rich experience, and has told the tale with an easy flow of narrative that takes one swiftly and pleasantly from story to story. Mr. Edwards has clearly enjoyed living, for otherwise the incidents that gave life form and color for him could not have impressed themselves upon his memory with such sure distinctness, they are so many and sometimes so slight. Occasionally a

sudden transition to the inconsequential gives the reader an unpleasant sensation. "I have no doubt that the military type-setter was well paid. Herzen was a generous man, and had abundant private means. He called his paper the *Bell* and he had himself a voice like a bell, musical and sonorous." But perhaps these things merely authenticate the record to something more than artificiality in the glow of a fresh and lively remembrance. Mr. Edwards's memories, as he makes note of them, are largely of persons rather than events,—artists, musicians, statesmen, Russian, and Italian revolutionaries, actors and managers. Tennyson and Browning figure in the pages, von Bulow, Wagner, Verdi, Macready, Lewes, Reade, Thackeray, and a host of lesser men of various abilities and more or less interesting personalities. Douglas Jerrold's caustic wit and the more genial pleasantries of others known to fame brighten the pages abundantly, and the running comment on men and manners that makes up the thick volume has the sparkle of brilliant conversation, if it has also at times the scrappiness into which such conversation may lapse. There is in the book no serious dealing with the men and women upon whose lives it touches, but in anecdote and in side-lights upon character it is distinctly rich and entertaining.

For those who go a-fishing.

It was the "Father of Angling" who long ago remarked on the difficulty of teaching "the Art of Catching Fish, that is to say, how to make a Man that was none, to be an Angler by a book." Nevertheless, Isaak Walton has left us a piscatorial as well as a literary classic. But the "Compleat Angler" was written for other lands and days. Americans who love and practice this fascinating form of recreation will find Mr. McCarthy's volume on "Familiar Fish" (Appleton) replete from cover to cover with fisherman's lore from the pen of one of their successful confreres. Mr. McCarthy writes with the spirit of the true sportman, and those who would learn the art will find in his book a sympathetic account of the life and haunts of our fresh-water game fish. Details of rods and tackle, and counsel as to fly-casting, with suggestions for outfits and for the conduct of camp-life, make the book a valuable one for all campers and sportsmen. The ichthyological references have been supervised by President David Starr Jordan, whose facile pen also contributes a prefatory note which discusses the *raison d'être* of angling and the comparative ethics of "hog-fishing" and piscatorial prevarications.

The meditations of a prelate and a student of affairs.

It is a volume of sound and thoughtful essays and addresses that Bishop Spalding presents us under the general title of "Opportunity, and Other Essays" (McClurg). Showing on every page the marks of the scholar and the thinker, they are vitalized by the fine earnestness of a broad vision of life and a noble enthusiasm for the good it has to offer. Bishop

Spalding is no narrow churchman or pedant, and the breath of the larger needs of life and its larger activities gives a bracing atmosphere to the volume. In the opening essay, which gives its title to the book, there is perhaps the finer flavor, a suggestion of Emerson in style and hardly less in the quality of rapt prescience in the mysteries of life and its possibilities. There are eight chapters in all, ranging in theme from "The University, A Nursery of the Higher Life" and "Goethe as Educator" to "Empire or Republic." This last address, and the one preceding it in the book, are words for the times to give us thoughtful pause; but for that reason, it may be, their literary charm is perhaps less distinct and enjoyable. For its stimulus to the living of the life that is worth while, for its clear and wholesome doctrine of optimistic endeavor, packed to almost epigrammatic fullness, the little volume is well worth reading and well worth having at hand for the idle moment when a page or two of kindly wisdom is a pleasing tonic.

*William Watson Andrews—
a memorial.*

The Catholic Apostolic movement has passed more and more into obscurity. It was one of the movements which never greatly appealed to the popular mind or heart. But it appealed to many rare minds and noble characters, of whom a memorial volume on William Watson Andrews (Putnam) recalls one. William Watson Andrews was the Congregational minister of Kent, Connecticut, when he came under the influence of the new teaching and found himself in growing sympathy with it. He believed that it was the will of God to meet the needs of the time by a revival of the Apostolate. Nothing could be of a finer spirit than the words in which he finally asked dismission from the church in which he had been reared. The same spirit seemed only to be heightened by the adversities and isolation which followed his entrance into the new fold. He never gained the ear of the public, nor was he greatly successful in propagating the new creed, but throughout his life his was a friendship prized by some of the foremost of our intellectual and spiritual leaders, and in that circle he was always a power by reason of his personality, his learning, and his great spiritual gifts. The memorial volume is an interesting and valuable one.

*A new volume
in Mr. Murray's
edition of Byron.*

It is always a pleasure to record the appearance of the successive volumes of Mr. Murray's excellent edition of Byron (Scribner). The volume before us, the third of the poetry, contains the metrical tales which confirmed Byron's fame after the great success of "Childe Harold," together with the miscellaneous pieces of the same period. The numerous notes gratifyingly confirm one's impression of the taste, vigilance, and precision of Mr. Coleridge, who is earning the admiration of students and the gratitude of the poet's lovers. This volume contains six full-page illustrations, the most interesting of these

being a reproduction of Hayter's handsome drawing of Mrs. Leigh ("Augusta"). The qualities of this edition we have enlarged upon in preceding numbers of *THE DIAL*: they are such that it must supersede all others, irrespective of the considerable amount of new material it contains. We wish Mr. Coleridge good speed in the great task of editing "Don Juan," which he regards as Byron's "greatest work." The illustration of a poem so wide-ranging and various must severely tax the resources of the most accomplished editor.

*King Alfred's
"best book" in
modern English.*

The coming year is the millenary of the death of King Alfred, and to its celebration Mr. Walter John Sedgwick makes a highly acceptable contribution by publishing, through the Oxford University Press, a modern English translation of "King Alfred's Version of the Consolations of Boethius." Mr. Sedgwick has previously edited the Old English text of this "best book" of the King of the West Saxons, and his present work is thus a sort of supplement to his earlier one. The alliterative verses of the original are reproduced in Old English metre, and printed together at the end of the volume. In the body of the text, the editor has distinguished by means of italics the additions made by Alfred to the work of the Roman philosopher. This is a particularly interesting feature of the translation, for it enables us to follow the very workings of Alfred's mind as he labored for the instruction and moral welfare of his subjects. The editor's introduction is valuable, and includes specimen extracts from the preceding English versions of Boethius.

*Newly edited
critical writings
of John Dryden.*

Professor W. P. Ker has put all students of English literature, and especially of English criticism, in his debt by editing the "Essays of John Dryden" for the Oxford University Press. The work occupies two volumes, and includes the bulk of Dryden's critical writings, together with a commentary and extensive notes. "It is not meant to take the place of Scott or of Malone; but may serve as a convenient book for reference, to be used especially by such readers as are interested in criticism and the history of criticism, and who may be glad to have Dryden's critical opinions put before them in a form adapted for ready consultation and comparison." In all cases but one, the text has been collated with the original editions; but the editor has thought it best to modernize the spelling and give uniformity to the punctuation. The scholarship of the author of "Epic and Romance" needs no certificate, and it is a matter of course that he has done his editorial work in an admirable way.

*For unprotected
American women
going abroad.*

The American woman going abroad for the first time and without a man to look after her will find the little book entitled "European Travel for Women" (Macmillan), by Mary Cadwallader Jones, worth its weight in gold. In it the thousand and one

anxious queries that rise to the lips of the unprotected female tourist after she is fairly "in the thick of it" are answered in advance in a most practical and satisfactory way. As the author states it, the book is "intended especially for the use of women, to suggest what they had better take with them in going abroad for the first time, and to tell them how they can get about most comfortably after landing." Special chapters deal with travel in England, France, Germany, and Italy, respectively; and there is a table of well-selected useful foreign phrases. In short, the woman who has mastered the contents of this little manual may venture on the unknown sea of European travel with a comparatively light heart.

*An account of
Herbert Spencer
and his system.*

"Spencer and Spencerism" (Doubleday, Page & Co.) is the title of a useful little volume of 233 pages, wherein Mr. Hector Macpherson essays not only "to present to the general reader Spencerism in lucid, coherent shape," but to convey in outline some knowledge of the career and personality of the author of the system. The book was undertaken with Mr. Spencer's approval; and while it is, as it should be, the work of a disciple of his, it is not that of a slavish one. Mr. Macpherson is a good expositor, and something more than an expositor, his work showing throughout a rather critical bias—a tendency to collate and classify philosophical ideas, as well as merely to elucidate them and simplify the form of their original expression. As an essay in Spencerism, the book is decidedly suggestive, and the general reader will find it helpful on its expository side.

*A pedagogue
of long ago.*

Educators will note with interest the appearance of a life of the late "Joel Dorman Steele" (Barnes), by Mrs. George Archibald. Dr. Steele made his mark in life as a popular instructor and successful administrator, as well as the author of a series of text-books upon the merits of which opinion is still divided. Mrs. Archibald's life is the uncritical and affectionate tribute of an ex-pupil to a master to whom she was personally much attached; and it is prefixed by an autobiographical fragment outlining its author's career down to about 1867. From the book may be gathered *passim* passages indicating Dr. Steele's somewhat original notions as to quelling the "old Adam" and sowing the seeds of virtue and knowledge in the youthful mind. "Pedagogue" is writ large (and somewhat repellantly) on the portrait which forms the frontispiece.

*The ethics
of Judaism.*

A translation from the German, by Henrietta Szold, of Volume I., which constitutes Part I., of "The Ethics of Judaism," by Professor M. Lazarus of the University of Berlin, is issued in presentable form by The Jewish Publication Society of America (Philadelphia). The remaining three volumes of the work are to be published at regular intervals. The

present volume is divided into three chapters respectively headed, "On the Sources of Jewish Ethics," "The Principle of Jewish Ethics," "The Character of Jewish Ethics." Dr. Lazarus's treatment of his theme is strictly objective and scientific, and his work bids fair to supply when completed, through its portrayal of the inner life of Judaism, a needed supplement to the monumental History of Graetz.

BRIEFER MENTION.

The source extracts from American history, prepared by Professor Howard W. Caldwell, of the University of Nebraska, and published by Mr. J. H. Miller, have frequently received our commendation, and we are now glad to have the entire collection bound up in a single volume. The volume includes two series of ten numbers each, their respective subjects being "A Survey of American History" and "American Territorial Development." The latter series comes down to the present year, and includes extracts from State papers and other sources bearing upon the inglorious war of subjugation in which the country of Washington and Lincoln is now engaged.

To most English readers, Joseph Glanvill is nothing more than a name, the name of an obscure English writer of the seventeenth century, from whom Matthew Arnold got the story of "The Scholar Gypsy." Those who wish to make his further acquaintance may now be directed to a monograph prepared by Dr. Ferris Greenslet in pursuance of his study for a degree at Columbia University. This monograph, published for the University by the Macmillan Co., is the first number in a new series of "Studies in English." We cannot commend too highly the practice of this University in publishing these dissertations in the form of ordinary books. The present volume is thoroughly creditable to the department whence it issues, and a valuable contribution to the history of English literature.

A moderate sized volume of "Selected Writings of Isaac M. Wise," prefixed by a hundred pages of biography, the joint work of David Philipson and Louis Grossman, is published under the auspices of the Alumni Association of the Hebrew Union College, by the Robert Clarke Co. Dr. Wise was for over half a century a conspicuous figure in American Jewish life, and the writings selected for the present volume may be pronounced as representative of their author's style and opinions, as they are thoughtful, public-spirited, and earnest. There are half a dozen illustrations which acceptably crown this worthy memorial volume.

Two new volumes in the "Famous Scots Series" (Scribner) are Mr. Edward Pennington's "Sir David Wilkie" and Mr. A. R. MacEwen's "The Erskines." The particular Erskines treated of by Mr. MacEwen were the brothers Ebenezer and Ralph, famous in the annals of the Scotch church in the eighteenth century. The early history of the Secession church, of which Ebenezer Erskine was the founder, may be read in outline in Mr. MacEwen's scholarly little book. The life of Wilkie forms an interesting story in itself, as well as an important chapter in the history of British art; and Mr. Pennington tells it well and with due discrimination, quoting the critics *pro* and *con*, and holding the balance pretty fairly between them.

NOTES.

Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar," edited by Dr. G. C. D. Odell, is an English text recently published by Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co.

"An Epitome of the New Testament," in the Greek text, has been prepared by Professor Nicholas J. Stoffel, of Notre Dame University, and is issued from the press of that institution.

Daudet's "Kings in Exile," translated by Miss Katharine Prescott Wormeley, has been published by Messrs. Little, Brown, & Co., in an edition uniform with their other novels by this author.

The first number of a little periodical to be called "Noon," devoted to the reprinting of popular and "famous" poetry, will be issued early this month by Mr. William S. Lord of Evanston, Ill.

The Macmillan Co. have just sent us a new edition of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden," containing something like fifty pages of new matter, and intended by the writer to be the final form of the work.

An historical essay on "The Hiding of the Charter," by Mr. Charles J. Hoadly, is announced as the second publication of the Acorn Club of New Haven, an association organized for the purpose of issuing works bearing on the history and literature of Connecticut.

Volumes XI. and XII. of the "Cornell Studies in Classical Philology" (Macmillan) have just been published. The former is an "Index in Xenophontis Memorabilia," prepared by Misses Catharine M. Gloth and Mary F. Kellogg; the latter is "A Study of the Greek Pæan," the work of Dr. Arthur Fairbanks.

"Rome: Its Rise and Fall," by Dr. Philip Van Ness Myers (Ginn), is an expansion of the author's smaller text-book of Roman history into a volume of over five hundred pages, with many maps and other illustrations. The success long since achieved by Dr. Myers as a writer of text-books guarantees the scholarship and the practical usefulness of this new work.

It is announced that the reorganization of the affairs of Messrs. D. Appleton & Co. is practically completed, that all their obligations have been or shortly will be met in full, and that their business will go on with the old management and on an efficient financial basis. This announcement will be gratifying to the friends of this old and honorable house, and to the American book trade generally.

The "International Catalogue of Scientific Literature" is now well under way, and publication will begin next year. Seventeen subjects will be comprised, and a volume for each subject will be ready some time during the year. The price of subscription is £17, and the Smithsonian Institution will receive applications from this country. Three hundred sets must be subscribed for in order to secure the production of this work, and the forty-five sets allotted to the United States should be taken up without delay.

Mr. J. R. Tutin's "Concordance" to FitzGerald's translation of Omar, published by the Macmillan Co., seems to us to be the very acme of useless labor. A Concordance is a work which helps us to find a striking word or phrase in a voluminous writer, and we often find such a work useful; but we cannot conceive of the existence of persons who will wish to know exactly how many times, and in what places, FitzGerald used such words as "and" and "the" in the several editions of his slender sheaf of quatrains.

TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS.

September, 1900.

American Republics, Bureau of. W. W. Rockhill. *Forum*.
 Arctic Highlanders, With. W. A. Wyckoff. *Scribner*.
 Art Education for Men. C. N. Flagg. *Atlantic*.
 Austria, Constitutional Crisis in. Maurice Baumfeld. *Forum*.
 Bacteria, Use of in Our Food Products. *International*.
 Bering Sea, Summer Holiday in. John Burroughs. *Century*.
 Bona, The American. Francis C. Lowell. *Atlantic*.
 Campaigns of 1900, The. W. J. Stone. *Forum*.
 Census Methods, American. W. F. Willcox. *Forum*.
 Chikamauga Crisis, The. Jacob D. Cox. *Scribner*.
 "Child, The." J. C. Fernald. *Atlantic*.
 China against the World. Paul S. Reinsch. *Forum*.
 China, America and Reconstruction of. *Review of Reviews*.
 China, Can She be Saved? Talcott Williams. *Rev. of Rev.*
 China, Influence of Western World on. *Century*.
 China, Japan's Attitude toward. D. W. Stevens. *Forum*.
 China, Japan's Present Attitude toward. *Review of Reviews*.
 China, Missions in. J. S. Dennis. *Review of Reviews*.
 China, Revolution of. R. Van Bergen. *Century*.
 China, Russia's Interest in. Brooks Adams. *Atlantic*.
 China, The Conflict in. Edmund Buckley. *International*.
 Consular Inspection, Plea for. A. H. Washburn. *Forum*.
 Cotton-Seed, the New Cereal. E. L. Johnson. *Forum*.
 Detroit Bicentennial Memorial. Anna Mathewson. *Century*.
 Didon, Pères. Th. Bentzon. *Century*.
 France, Work and Wages in. W. B. Seafs. *Forum*.
 Gameland our Fathers Lost. Frederic Irland. *Scribner*.
 Germans, Anti-English Feeling among. Max Müller. *Forum*.
 Harrison, Frederic, New Essays of. W. P. Trent. *Forum*.
 Hauptmann, Gerhart. Margarethe Müller. *Atlantic*.
 Historians, American School of. A. B. Hart. *International*.
 Humbert, King of Italy. *Review of Reviews*.
 Huntington, Collis P. *Review of Reviews*.
 Japan, Recent Books on. Jukichi Inouye. *Atlantic*.
 Kansas City Financial Revolution. G. E. Roberts. *Forum*.
 Literature for Young Americans. H. S. Pancoast. *Lippincott*.
 Lowell, Personal Retrospect of. W. D. Howells. *Scribner*.
 Lutzen, The Battle of. Stephen Crane. *Lippincott*.
 Martineau, James. Charles C. Everett. *Atlantic*.
 Ober-Ammergau in 1900. H. D. Rawnsley. *Atlantic*.
 Oklahoma. Helen C. Candee. *Atlantic*.
 Philippine Sketches, Two. H. Phelps Whitmarsh. *Atlantic*.
 Philippines, Pressing Needs of. J. H. Parker. *Rev. of Rev.*
 Philosophy and Art. Paul E. More. *Atlantic*.
 Platforms, Democratic and Republican, Compared. *Forum*.
 Press and Foreign News. Rollo Ogden. *Atlantic*.
 Prohibition Party and its Candidates. *Review of Reviews*.
 Russia, Expansion of. Alfred Rambaud. *International*.
 Slavery, Afflict with the. J. R. Spears. *Scribner*.
 Southern Newspaper, An Old. W. P. Trent. *Atlantic*.
 Thames, The. Sir Walter Besant. *Century*.
 Trade Unionism, Tendency in. A. F. Weber. *International*.
 Troglodyte Dwellings in Cappadocia. *Century*.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

[The following list, containing 86 titles, includes books received by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

Richelieu, and the Growth of the French Power. By James Breck Perkins. L.L.D. Illus., 12mo, pp. 359. "Heroes of the Nations." G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.
 Joseph Glanville: A Study in English Thought and Letters of the Seventeenth Century. By Ferris Greenleaf. Ph.D. With portrait, 12mo, uncut, pp. 235. "Columbia University Studies in English." Macmillan Co. \$1.50 net.
 Personal Recollections. By H. Sutherland Edwards. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 280. Cassell Company, Ltd. \$1.50.
 Dürer. By H. Knackfuss; trans. by Campbell Dodgson. Illus., large 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 152. "Monographs on Artists." Lemoine & Buechner. \$1.50.

HISTORY.

A Brief History of Eastern Asia. By I. C. Hannah. M.A. 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 303. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2. net.
 A History of Political Parties in the United States. By James H. Hopkins. 8vo, pp. 477. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.
 American History: Unification—Expansion (Source Extracts). By Howard W. Caldwell, A.M. 12mo, pp. 285. Chicago: J. H. Miller.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

A Book for All Readers: Designed as an Aid to the Collection, Use, and Preservation of Books, and the Formation of Public and Private Libraries. By Ainsworth R. Spofford. 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 509. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.
 Elizabeth and her German Garden. New edition with additions. 12mo, uncut, pp. 225. Macmillan Co. \$1.75.
 Making the Most of Social Opportunities. By Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead. 12mo, pp. 28. L. C. Page & Co. 35 cts.
 On the Training of Lovers. By Austin Bierbower. 12mo, pp. 32. L. C. Page & Co. 35 cts.

NEW EDITIONS OF STANDARD LITERATURE.

Love's Comedy. By Henrik Ibsen; trans., with Introduction and Notes, by C. H. Herford. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 167. "Modern Plays." Charles H. Sergel Co. \$1.25 net.
 Addresses and Essays on Subjects of History, Education, and Government. By Edward Everett Hale. With frontispiece, 12mo, gilt top, pp. 421. Little, Brown, & Co. \$1.50.
 How to Do It. To which is added, How to Live. By Edward Everett Hale. With frontispiece. 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 397. Little, Brown, & Co. \$1.50.
 Seneca's Tranquillity of Mind, and Providence: Two Essays. Trans. by William B. Langsdorf, Ph.D. 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 141. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.
 Tully's Offices. Turned out of Latin into English by Roger L'Estrange. With frontispiece, 24mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 195. "Temple Classics." Macmillan Co. 50 cts.
 Cassell's National Library. Edited by Prof. Henry Morley. New vols.: Richard Hakluyt's Voyagers' Tales, Abraham Cowley's Essays, and Edmund Burke's The Sublime and Beautiful. Each 24mo. Cassell & Co., Ltd. Per vol., paper, 10 cts.

FICTION.

Pine Knot: A Story of Kentucky Life. By William E. Barton. Illus., 12mo, pp. 360. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.
 Whilomville Stories. By Stephen Crane. Illus., 12mo, pp. 199. Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.
 Edward Barry, South Sea Pearler. By Louis Becke. Illus., 12mo, pp. 305. L. C. Page & Co. \$1.50.
 Father Anthony: A Romance of To-day. By Robert Buchanan. Illus., 12mo, gilt top, pp. 261. G. W. Dillingham Co. \$1.50.
 The Girl at the Halfway House: A Story of the Plains. By E. Hough. 12mo, pp. 371. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.
 A Royal Enchantress: The Romance of the Last Queen of the Berbers. By Leo Charles Densar. Illus., 12mo, pp. 330. Continental Publishing Co. \$1.50.
 A Georgian Actress. By Pauline Bradford Mackie. Illus., 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 296. L. C. Page & Co. \$1.50.
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